

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-3, 5-9, 11, 12 and 15-20 were pending, claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 15, 17 and 18 having been withdrawn from consideration.

Claim 1 was rejected as being anticipated by Mullee. Claims 7-9, 11, 12, 16 and 19 were rejected as being obvious over Mullee.

No grounds for rejection of claim 20 are presented in the Office Action. Claim 20 is being rewritten in independent form and should now be allowed.

Claim 1 is being amended to include the limitations of claim 2, which is being canceled.

According to currently amended claim 1, the chemical-agent supply unit includes: blending means for blending the chemical agents; a plurality of flow-rate control means each provided in correspondence to a respective one of said dedicated tanks; and pumping means for pumping said chemical formulation blended by said blending means.

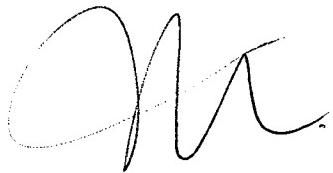
On the contrary, these structural limitations, that is, blending means, a plurality of flow-rate control means, and pumping means are not disclosed in Mullee (US 6,306,564). Particularly, claim 1 recites "pumping means" included in the chemical-agent supply unit, whereas Mullee does not disclose any pump included in the chemical-agent supply unit described by the Examiner.

Therefore, as amended, claim 1 is not anticipated by Mullee, since Mullee does not disclose each and every element of claim 1. The Examiner is requested to withdraw the rejection of amended claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b).

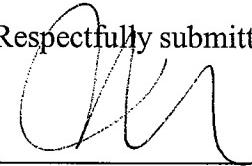
The Examiner is also requested to recognize the allowability of claim 20 in the absence of any *prima facie* basis for rejecting this claim.

In view of the foregoing, allowance of claims 1, 7-9, 11, 12, 16, 19 and 20 is requested.

THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING
SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY
THROUGH THE PATENT AND
TRADEMARK OFFICE EFS FILING
SYSTEM ON February 27, 2008.



Respectfully submitted,



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